

The American Legion

News: Local, State, National

All New York State Posts Preparing for Big Membership Drive; Seek Quota of 150,000

Wounded Comrades in Hospitals Well Cared For on Christmas Day; Disension in Brooklyn

All members of the American Legion in New York State will devote this week to the final organization of the great membership drive of the department, which is to begin on January 1 and end on February 1.

Instructions on procedure have been forwarded by State Commander C. B. Blakelee to all post commanders in the state, and the suggestions offered by the membership and publicity committees will be followed in all communities.

A quota of 150,000, or approximately twice the membership at present, has been set by Commander Blakelee, and all legionnaires are confident the mark will be exceeded.

The success of the legion in bringing about the state bonus for war veterans and the splendid work the organization has done in providing for its wounded comrades, whether or not they have been members of the legion, has won them enough prestige, they feel, to assure them of a splendid response among veterans. The fact that the national legislative committee is in Washington striving to make the national bonus a success leads legion officials to believe that the membership drive will win thousands of recruits.

Literature dealing with the drive and its purposes will be ready for distribution to posts this week, it is believed, and post commanders are urged to see that it gets immediate circulation. The women's auxiliaries have signified their desire to lend every aid in the campaign and it is believed that several thousand men who otherwise would not have become legionnaires.

Christmas for Disabled

The manner in which Legion posts are preparing for Christmas for their wounded comrades still confined in hospitals in this community on Christmas Day and on Christmas Eve has gained them a host of champions among the patients.

Nearly every post in the five counties had a delegation assigned to one of the hospitals still caring for disabled veterans, and from reports of these visitors the patients received numerous gifts. The State Commander's plea, issued four days before Christmas, had its desired effect.

The Legion and German Opera

The American Legion has not indulged in German opera.

The producers of this sort of entertainment are distributing circulars headed "The American Legion has no objection to German opera," and thereby have aroused the ire of state headquarters. In a statement issued on the day the Legion's officials discussed the proposed to give German opera, repeated last Saturday, Vice-Commander William F. Deegan said:

"The Legion deprecates the fact that German opera in Germany has been produced in this city while hundreds of wounded and disabled are still uncared for and suffering. It is felt that the gold star mothers and other relatives who have suffered most deeply will not view with pleasure this production."

Commander Deegan said yesterday that his original statement, which excluded German opera from the list of entertainments of the five county fair, was for the purpose of informing Legionnaires that no official sanction would be raised. This decision was made on the fact that it was considered unwise to arouse antagonism and possible disorder, since the American Legion is devoted to the maintenance of law and order.

Disension in Brooklyn

An intra-organization dispute has cropped up in the Kings County Legion which promises more than a passing amount of excitement in the annual elections of that organization when they are held. In short, General Charles W. Berry and General Charles I. Debovoise, the two candidates for the nomination of the committee, along with some other candidates, are to be strongly opposed by representatives of the smaller posts of the borough, who charge "steam roller tactics" by the committee.

A meeting will be held to-night by some of the smaller posts, when an entirely new slate will be drawn and delegates will be selected with instructions to vote for it. The meeting will be at the headquarters of Sergeant William A. Cleaver Post, 819 Gravesend Avenue. A letter from Frederick Manes, county delegate from the post, to several other posts in Brooklyn says:

"The more powerful interests in this county are preparing their steam roller to push forward their choices for the county offices."

The most powerful opposition is said to be against General Berry, nominated by county chairman, and Henry Ahrens, candidate for county secretary. Both are members of 106th Infantry Post, the largest in Brooklyn. More than fifty posts will attend to-night's meeting, it was said yesterday.

Burt Hunt, county chairman of the Legion, said that the dispute between the posts had done little for the Legion, but that he welcomed a contest for the offices.

Appeal to President Wilson

George Dahlbender Post, of the Bronx, has forwarded a letter to President Wilson urging that the Chief Executive release from imprisonment all veterans now confined as a result of minor violations of the regulations during the war. The post insists that such offenders should be freed, in view of the humanitarian and conscientious objects. The Bronx County committee will take up this fight. It is understood that the issue is not forthcoming, and make an issue until the men involved are granted some relief.

LEGION NOTES

Establishment of a radio department for receiving wireless news and keeping in touch with American League posts throughout Louisiana is announced by the Louisiana department. Through cooperation with amateurs in Louisiana, a station will be maintained between the state headquarters and the local posts.

Three hundred volumes covering the history of American activities in the world have been received through the medium of The American Legion Library, which will be established in the room of national headquarters.

The American Legion will enter 1921 with about 10,000 posts, according to estimates based on the latest figures. During the week ending December 10, fifteen new posts were added, which brought the total to 5,980. Ar-

kansas led with three posts. The Women's Auxiliary in the same period obtained twenty-seven new units, raising its list to 1,586. Four new units, raised by the New York department, placed this department in the lead for the year. Foreign posts added recently are at Chiquitama, Chile, and Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Following the action of the American Legion in Bronx County, which sent representatives to Washington to fight the passage of the proposed "blue laws" by Congress, other posts in all five boroughs of New York have put themselves on record against the proposed legislation.

Post Activities
Washington Heights Post plans a dance for February 21, to mark the official opening of the new headquarters, at 155th Street, near St. Nicholas Avenue.

A military mass will be held this morning for Private William J. Smith, formerly of the 54th Engineers, whose body was returned from France recently, in the Church of Our Saviour, 183d Street and Washington Avenue, on Wednesday morning a mass will be held for Private Cecil B. Hutton, formerly of Company C, 105th Infantry. The Arthur Viens Post will provide the escort for both funerals.

The Maplewood, N. J., Post has offered its services to the police authorities of that town in maintaining law and order.

U. S. S. Tampa Post will give a dance at the Hotel McAlpin on the evening of February 4.

On Wednesday night Tiger Post will meet at 170 East Sixtieth Street.

The Thirteenth Post, of Brooklyn, will hold a monster carnival on New Year's Eve at the armory of the 13th Regiment, 387 Summer Avenue, Brooklyn. Ten per cent of the proceeds will be given to wounded veterans.

The following officers have been elected by East End Post: Commander, Dr. Edward Adams; vice-commanders, Dr. Thomas McCoy, Dr. J. Victor Haberman and H. F. Massey; adjutant, Francis Anjou, Jr., and treasurer, E. C. Jackson. All were re-elections.

James S. Slosson Post has elected the following officers: Commander, W. E. McCormack; vice-commanders, W. J. McCormack, Francis P. Steele and A. D. Blake; adjutant, H. N. Rodewald, and treasurer, Richard A. Morris.

William B. Irwin Jr. Post will hold a monster carnival on New Year's Eve at Lavelle Hall, 260th Street and Riverdale Avenue.

Newfoundland Rail System Placed in a Commission's Hands

Narrow Gauge Line of 960 Miles, After Weathering War Period, Has to Call Upon Colony for Help

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Nov. 20.—Newfoundland, isolated from railroad communication with the outer world, has nevertheless caught the railroad fever of operation and finance common to most countries. Its narrow-gauge line of 960 miles, after running through the period of the war without government aid, while railways of other countries were receiving aid in measure of assistance, has been forced to call on the colony for help in post-war readjustment.

The immediate result has been the placing of the railway administration in the hands of a joint commission of seven, of which the government has a majority of the members. The commission is equipped with \$1,000,000 of colonial funds, has been set the task of working out the salvation of a railway system, which before the war lost an average of \$100,000 a year, and in the last five years has had to govern without advance in rates an increase in expenses, which in the case of coal was from \$164,693 in 1915 to \$500,498 in 1920, and in wages from \$307,444 to \$1,412,012 for the five years. As one of its first problems, the commission is faced with a demand for further increases in wages ranging from 20 to 30 per cent.

Because of the geographical and industrial features of the island colony, which have drawn most of the quarter million inhabitants to countless harbors and hamlets on the coast, where they ply their fishery pursuits, steamship service is an essential and considerable supplement to the railroad lines.

Monopoly of Transportation
The commission for this reason has taken over with the railway the whole system of inter-island and coast water connections, which previously have been operated jointly by the Newfoundland Company, owners of the railway, and the government. Thus is a country of few trunk highways and of no trolley cars outside of St. John's, the commission is administering virtually a monopoly of transportation mediums both of passengers and freight.

What the eventual result of the commission's administration and recommendations will be is uncertain. It is expected to report to the next session of the Legislature, when the question of continuing the commission under further temporary appointment, or of adopting a permanent plan of government of private or joint operation will come up. Working out of such plans will involve several problems that go back to the early history of the road.

The railway, one of the few narrow-gauge lines remaining in North America, originally was built for the colony by Sir Robert Reid, of Montreal. Until the commission took it over the road was operated by the Reid-Newfoundland Company, in which sons of the builder are now the active spirits, under a fifty-year lease. As payment, the company chose mail subsidies and land grants in preference to cash, the land being regarded of high potential value because of its timber and mineral deposits.

Of the 960 miles of narrow-gauge line, travel on which is adventurous at times, 546 miles run across the island from St. John's, on the east coast, to a terminal at Port aux Basques, on the west. Much of the road lies across barren wastes, swept by every storm, blocked by snows for weeks at a time and subject to washouts and derailments.

Storms Endanger Trains

At places the thin trains have had to be anchored to the rails by special devices as protection against being overturned by storm. Trains have been two and three weeks in making the 646-mile run which in the United States would be covered in sixteen to eighteen hours.

The commission, taking action toward economy of operation, has taken the thrills out of "cross-country travel" in winter, and has decided to abandon during the winter months the exposed mid-interior section of the road, where

the line ascends the backbone of the country, a range of hills known as the Topsails.

Passengers will be saved the previous dangers and delays by diversion to a steamship route from Sidney, C. B., to the southern Newfoundland port of Argentia, in Placentia Bay, which is being specially equipped for the new traffic. For local transportation purposes auxiliary railway services will be established on each coast.

The commission also is undertaking development of certain coal areas on the west coast as a means of affording a fuel supply for the road.

Sneezing Epidemic in Paris

All Caught Cold on Armistice Day, They Say

PARIS, Dec. 2 (By Mail).—An epidemic of sneezing, coughing, colds in the head and other similar ailments has struck Paris. In the automobiles, tramways, subways, restaurants every one has his handkerchief in hand for constant use. Drug stores and physicians are doing a rushing business.

The climax of a love scene at one of the theaters was utterly spoiled when the audience commenced to cough and sneeze unanimously.

Ask any of the sufferers where he got it and the answer is stereotyped: "I caught that on Armistice Day, standing bareheaded in the foggy, damp weather while the procession filed past."

President Millerand, who walked bareheaded in the procession for nearly three miles, is said to be suffering from the grip.

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Plan Projects to Develop 12,000,000 Horsepower
129 Applications From Twenty-seven States Filed Under the New Federal Act

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Applications for permits looking toward the development of more than 12,000,000 horsepower, sufficient to supply twenty cities the size of Chicago, had been filed under the Federal water power act with the Federal Power Commission up to December 18, the commission announced today.

Completion of the contemplated plans, as shown in the applications, the commission estimates, will advance water power development in the United States by more than 40 per cent, and will involve an investment of \$1,200,000,000.

The projects covered in the applications range from a small ten-horsepower plant for a colony of summer cottages in the Wyoming Mountains to the storage of the waters of the upper Colorado and its tributaries in a huge reservoir and the ultimate development of more than 3,000,000 horsepower by the utilization of the waters in a drop of 2,600 feet.

Twenty-seven states, in addition to Alaska and the District of Columbia, are represented in the 129 applications filed with the commission. California leads the states in the number of permits with thirty-five, New York is second with thirteen, Washington third with twelve. Alaska and Montana are represented with ten permits each, while from Idaho there were seven and from Arizona six.

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But five in the afternoon is the boss's time for brilliant ideas. He must get rid of them! The tired girl is the answer.

He thinks he's fair to his employee. He isn't. Let him have brilliant ideas at five. But let him dictate them to The Dictaphone. Next morning while he's dawdling over his eggs, the girl gets them on paper. They're on his desk when he arrives. And both the man and the girl are content.

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Control of Floods Planned
Dams to Check Waters From North Carolina Mountains

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Dec. 21.—Control of the floods throughout the south section of the United States is the tentative plan of the southeastern water resources office of the United States Geological Survey, with headquarters here.

The idea is to dam temporarily waters originating in the western North Carolina mountains during periods of excessive rain.

Huge basins would be built in mountain crevasses, into which flood waters could be turned and stored until high waters of streams lower down had subsided. Streams whose sources are in this section form rivers in Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia.

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